## Questions? You can contact us at:

# OFFICE OF CITY AUDITOR SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

# Control Self Assessments

Facilitated Workshops

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"If people don't participate in and 'own' the solution to the problems or agree to the decision, implementation will be half-hearted at best, probably misunderstood, and more likely than not fail."

Sam Kaner

# CONTROL SELF ASSESSMENT FACILITATED WORKSHOPS

In this audit process an employee team meets with auditors to hold structured discussions on how to achieve its objectives in the most efficient and effective way. Action plans, rather than a formal audit report, are developed to address any obstacles to the objective(s). During these sessions, the employee team provides expertise on its work, while the auditors contribute analytical and facilitation skills to guide the discussion.

- Examples: Seattle Public
   Utility Real Property Services
   and Municipal Court Public
   Services.
- Primary customers: program managers.
- Distribution: program managers. High level summaries may be provided to Department director, City Council, and/or Mayor's Office.

## WHAT IS CONTROL SELF ASSESSMENT (CSA)?

#### Control Self Assessment is:

- A facilitated proactive review of a work group's objectives and work processes;
- A means for a work group to assess its work processes and to develop action plans to improve those processes;
- A means by which a work group can realize its objectives and assess the likelihood that objectives will be achieved.

### WHY USE CSA?

### A Control Self Assessment:

- Taps the wisdom of the "experts", the people who do the work;
- Helps get at "soft controls";
- Can improve your office's relationship with the auditee;
- Fosters greater buy-in to the action plan developed.

# WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL CSA?

- Support from the workgroup's management.
- Clear, concise objectives for the workshop.
- Participation by the employees closest to the operations under review.
- Schedule sufficient time for the workshop.
- Set ground rules for the workshop.
- Report workshop results to participants and management in a timely manner.
- Use appropriate technology: Let your work group and objectives determine whether you go "lowtech" or "high-tech".
- Learn from your prior mistakes.
- Prepare, prepare, prepare.
- GOOD FACILITATION SKILLS ARE A MUST!!!